

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the outstanding Final Official Action, claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111698) in view of SEKIGUCHI (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156899). Claims 1-10 have previously been cancelled.

Applicants traverse the outstanding rejections. Independent claim 11 explicitly requires that the remote controller acquire and store a current address of the remotely-controlled device on the network by communicating with the remotely-controlled device through the network at constant time intervals. A similar limitation is also found in independent claim 15. The Final Official Action acknowledged that GRAZIANO fails to disclose acquiring a current address of a remotely-controlled at constant time intervals. However, the Final Official Action cites SEKIGUCHI as teaching this feature.

The Final Official Action asserts that SEKIGUCHI's Figures 1 and 2 together with SEKIGUCHI's paragraphs [0059]-[0062] and [0067]-[0069] teach a Home Gateway Apparatus 102 having two systems, wherein the first system periodically monitors the connectivity conditions of a controller (225) to determine whether the power of the second system is turned on, and when the power is turned on, the first system acquires the current address (IP address) of the second system, which is connected to the home devices. Upon closer reading of SEKIGUCHI, Applicants submit that SEKIGUCHI is limited to the periodic monitoring of the second system's power condition, not to the periodic acquisition and storage of current address information, as the address information is only obtained at irregular time intervals that are dependent on the power condition of the second system. Accordingly, Applicants submit that neither GRAZIANO nor SEKIGUCHI disclose the acquiring and storing of a remotely

controlled device's current address at constant time intervals by a remote controller, as required by the pending claims of the present application.

The Final Official Action also asserts that GRAZIANO's paragraph [0057] discloses that the remote controller includes a first communication interface operable to transmit through the network at constant time intervals a status notification address and operable in response to the status notification request to receive status information indicating the status of a remotely controlled device. The Final Official Action asserts that GRAZIANO's paragraph [0080] includes an example of this process with respect to a remotely monitored and controlled thermostat. The Final Official Action then asserts that GRAZIANO discloses that the user provides home configuration information that includes behavioral settings that monitor the status of the remotely controlled home devices according to user preference (e.g., day time state, evening state and night state) so the host system will transmit this information at times specified by the user, hence transmitting status requests at constant times.

Although the Final Official Action does not point to a specific portion of GRAZIANO for this teaching, the Action appears to be referring to GRAZIANO's Figures 8 and 9 and their corresponding recitation. Applicants submit that GRAZIANO's Figures 8 and 9 and paragraph [0068] disclose that the user-entered home configuration information is stored in the Web-based host's database and is then sent to the "home attendant" in the user's home where the "home attendant" actually monitors the remotely controlled home device. It is emphasized that GRAZIANO's "home attendant" is located in the home with the home device and is not located in the remote controller, as required by the claims of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit that GRAZIANO fails to disclose that the remote controller transmits status notification requests through the network to the remotely controlled home device at constant time intervals.

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For at least the reasons set forth above, independent claims 11 and 15 are submitted to be patentable over the combination of GRAZIANO and SEKIGUCHI set forth by the Examiner. Corresponding dependent claims 12-14 and 16-18 are also submitted to be patentable for at least the reasons stated above regarding independent claims 11 and 15, respectively, and further for the additional features cited therein.

SUMMARY

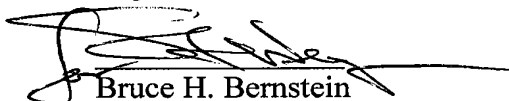
From the arguments and remarks provided above, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the present application are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Accordingly reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action is respectfully requested and an indication of the allowance of claims 11-18 is now believed to be appropriate.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §714.13, Applicants submit that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Office Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal. Further, the revised claims do not present any new issues that would require any further consideration or search by the Examiner, and the amendment does not present any additional claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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